GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4571
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT AT COOCHBEHAR
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for providing aviation services and construction of an Airport at Coochbehar alongwith the year in which this amount was incurred;

(b) the year-wise amount being spent on its maintenance and salary and other allowances of officials posted there;

(c) the time since when the airport is not in operation alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to depend on private airlines to make this airport operational;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make this airport operational?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) & (b):- No major development work has been taken up at Coochbehar airport during Ninth Five Year Plan. However, rountine expenditure incurred on maintenance, staff salary and allowances of the officials posted at Coochbehar airport during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs.52.44 lakhs, Rs.37.31 Lakhs and Rs.48.42 Lakhs respectively.

(c):- The airport is not in operation for about a decade due to poor traffic potential.

(d), (e) & (f) : - Airlines plan their operations on the basis of traffic demand and commercial viability subject to route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.